

ALA Annual 2018
Council Report
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Budget ([CD #13.3](#))

- Investment for the 2019 FY will focus on:
 - Advocacy - Specific focus on advocacy during ALA Annual 2019 in Washington, DC, and strengthening National Library Legislative Day
 - Development - Fundraising and major gifts
 - IT infrastructure - Improving ALA website and online materials
- Council voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Estimate of Income at \$84,304,634

Committee Reports

- Committee on Diversity (COD) ([CD #14.1](#))
 - At the request of a group of ALA members, COD is revising ALA Policy B.8.10, "Library Services to the Poor," to use more inclusive language. They will solicit member feedback over the summer before a Council vote.
 - In support of the Resolution on Libraries as Responsible Spaces adopted by Council at ALA Annual in 2017, COD is working on an online toolkit that defines responsible spaces and compiles materials related to programming, marketing and outreach, and staff training to help libraries adopt best practices.
- Committee on Organization (COO) ([CD #27.1](#))
 - Council voted to allow the Graphic Novels and Comics Interest Group to become the Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table
- Committee on Legislation (COL) ([CD #20.1-20.4](#))
 - Discussed success of National Library Legislative Day. Representatives from all 50 states attended 325 meetings.
 - **Resolution Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the GPO Access Act and Calling for the Enactment of the FDLP Modernization Act (Passed)** - Calls for increased access to government information by enactment of the FDLP Modernization Act, H.R. 5305
 - [**Resolution to Reunite Detained Migrant Children with their Parents \(Passed\)**](#) - Highlights ALA policies related to immigrant rights and library services for children in detention centers. Calls on ALA members to contact their elected officials to express concerns
- Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) ([CD #19.3-19.8](#))
 - The IFC put forward three Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, all of which passed:
 - Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
 - Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights
 - Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

- In the past few weeks, there has been backlash from ALA members and other library workers to the Meeting Rooms document, which is a revision of the [1991 interpretation](#). The original version stated that if libraries offered community meeting spaces they could not exclude groups based on the content of their meeting, citing religious and partisan political groups as examples of those who could not be excluded. The revised version includes hate groups in this list, and references two legal cases from 2001 and 2002, both of which ultimately resulted public libraries allowing white supremacist groups to use their meeting spaces. The terms “hate groups” and “hate speech” were added to the document at the last minute prior to the vote without any discussion on the Council floor, after months of online commenting from individual Councilors and the Public Library Association (PLA) on a previous version.

In the ensuing debate, supporters of the revision have cited First Amendment protections and the potential difficulty of defining a hate group. Office of Intellectual Freedom Director James LaRue [recently stated](#) that the goals of this addition were to “protect free speech and keep libraries out of court.” Many of those opposing the change want ALA to take a stance against hate groups, citing library professional values of inclusivity, diversity, and equity. Currently, there is a proposal for a resolution to rescind the change, revert the document back to the 1991 version, and allow the Intellectual Freedom Committee to form a working group to revise the interpretation prior to the 2019 Midwinter Meeting.

Additional Resolutions

- **Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation** (Passed unanimously) ([CD #41](#)) - Cites history of racially segregated libraries, formally apologizes to African Americans, and commends those who protested racial segregation.
- **[Resolution Gender Inclusive Bathrooms at ALA Conferences and Meetings](#)** (Passed with amendment) - In response to discussions and concerns about access to designated gender neutral bathrooms at ALA Annual 2018, a group of councilors proposed a resolution to move toward 100 percent gender-neutral restrooms at ALA conferences and meetings. The resolution was amended to provide a “sufficient mix” of gender-neutral and gender-specific restrooms.

Discussion - ALA Organizational Effectiveness

- Councilors and ALA members participated in a brainstorming session about future directions for ALA. Ideas included:
 - Engage more directly with chapters, such as by bringing ALA content to state conferences
 - Allow virtual participation in Annual and Midwinter and more virtual conversation and collaboration in general
 - Promote engagement of new members
 - Eliminate redundancy in ALA divisions and sections

- Improve usability of online materials
- Make connections between academic, school, and public libraries
- Establish better connections with affiliated organizations in education and community engagement